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Royal Geographical Society,

1868.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE 25TH MAY.

THE Council have again the pleasure of submitting a most satisfactory Report of the financial condition and general progress of the Society.

Members.—Since the last Anniversary 190 Fellows have been elected, of whom two were Honorary Corresponding, and 19 have paid their Life Compositions. Last year the number was only 147, three being Honorary Corresponding. The number lost by death is 41, by resignation 22, and 48 have been struck off the list for arrears of subscription: the net increase being 79, or 53 more than last year. The present total number is 2150 Ordinary, and 72 Honorary and Honorary Corresponding Fellows.

A special Collector having been appointed towards the commencement of the last financial year, for the purpose of recovering long outstanding arrears of subscriptions, the Council have the satisfaction of reporting so far a successful result, the amount thus recovered being 421*l*. By the same means the Finance Committee have been able to ascertain the defaulters whose arrears are not expected to be made good, and to recommend to the Council the enforcement of the rule providing for the exclusion of such from the List of Fellows. On the recommendation of the Auditors it has been decided to continue the employment of the special collector, on terms of commission varying according to the length of the arrears. The control and

examination of the subscription accounts have been much facilitated this year by a complete tabulated list of the Fellows and payments, prepared by the chief clerk according to a method proposed by the Auditors in the previous year.

Finances.—The Balance-Sheet (Appendix A) exhibits a large increase in the receipts over previous years, and a corresponding increase in the balance available for investment or grants in furtherance of Geography. The receipts for the year (exclusive of the balance in hand) were 5462*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.* In 1866 they were 5085*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, in 1865, 4905*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, and in 1864, 4977*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* The expenditure during the past year was 3943*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*; showing a decrease on the two previous years, the amount in 1866 having been 4052*l.* 15*s.*, and in 1865, 4307*l.* 4*s.* 5*d.*; in 1864 it was 3647*l.* 7*s.* 10*d.* Of the amount expended, 193*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* was for the promotion of expeditions. The excess of income over expenditure was 1621*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.*; and this has enabled the Council, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to invest a further 1000*l.* (in the India 5 per cent. Debentures). The total amount of the Funded Capital at the present date is 15,500*l.*

The Council have to remind the Fellows of the Society that the whole of this sum will be required for the erection of a building for their use, the want of which is more and more felt as the Society increases in numbers, and will shortly become still more urgent when we are deprived of the use of the Hall at Burlington House, where the evening meetings are (by permission) now held, and which is to be pulled down. A special Committee of the Council has already had this subject under their consideration, and a site for a building facing the new Thames Embankment has been promised by the Chief Commissioner of Crown Lands. The first sketch-plan of a building made by Mr. James Fergusson includes rooms for the convenient arrangement of the rapidly-increasing Map Collection and Library, as well as a large Hall for meetings, and Offices.

The legacy of 4000*l.*, mentioned in the Reports of the last two years as having been bequeathed to the Society by the late Benjamin Oliveira, Esq., is still under litigation. Progress has, however, been made towards a final decision, in judgment having been delivered against the claimants of the property

under a prior settlement; and the Council have been encouraged by their legal advisers to expect, in course of time, the receipt of a portion of the legacy.

STATEMENT showing the RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE of the Society from the Year 1848 to the 31st Dec. 1867.

STATEMENT showing the Progress of the INVESTMENTS of the Society from the Year 1832 to the 31st Dec. 1867.

Year.	Cash Receipts within the Year.			Cash Amounts invested in Funds.			Deducting Amounts invested in Funds; actual Expenditure.			End of the Year, Dec. 31.	Cash Invested.			Amount of Stock purchased.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1848	696	10	5	..	..	..	755	6	1	1832	3657	10	0	4000	0	0
1849	778	3	0	..	..	..	1098	7	6	1833	4130	0	0	4500	0	0
1850	1036	10	5	..	..	..	877	2	10	1834	4426	0	0	4800	0	0
1851	1056	11	8	..	..	..	906	14	7	1835	4426	0	0	4800	0	0
1852	1220	3	4	..	..	..	995	13	1	1836	4426	0	0	4800	0	0
1853	1917	2	6	..	..	..	1675	6	0	1837	4426	0	0	4800	0	0
1854	2565	7	8	..	..	..	2197	19	3	1838	4426	0	0	4800	0	0
1855	2584	7	0	..	..	..	2636	3	1	1839	4129	15	0	4500	0	0
1856	3372	5	1	533	10	0	2814	8	1	1840	3788	10	0	4150	0	0
1857	3142	13	4	378	0	0	3480	19	9	1841	2801	0	0	3150	0	0
1858	3089	15	1	..	..	..	2944	13	6	1842	2801	0	0	3150	0	0
1859	3471	11	8	950	0	0	3423	3	9	1843	2219	18	6	2578	4	4
1860	6449	12	1	466	17	6	5406	3	7	1844	2219	18	6	2578	4	4
1861	4792	12	9	1358	2	6	3074	7	4	1845	2219	18	6	2578	4	4
1862	4659	7	9	1389	7	6	3095	19	4	1846	1933	1	0	2278	4	4
1863	5256	9	3	1837	10	0	3655	4	0	1847	2133	1	0	2502	6	2
1864	4977	8	6	1796	5	0	3647	7	10	1848	1886	16	8	2224	1	10
1865	4905	8	3	1041	5	0	4307	4	5	1849	1886	16	8	2224	1	10
1866	5085	8	3	1028	15	0	4052	15	0	1850	1886	16	8	2224	1	10
1867	5462	7	11	1029	0	6	3943	17	4	1851	1886	16	8	2224	1	10
In 1856 a Treasury Grant of 1000 <i>l.</i> for the East African Expedition received.										1852	1886	16	8	2224	1	10
In 1860 a Treasury Grant of 2500 <i>l.</i> for the East African Expedition received.										1853	1662	14	10	2000	0	0
										1854	1662	14	10	2000	0	0
										1855	1662	14	10	2000	0	0
										1856	2216	4	10	2600	0	0
										1857	2594	4	10	3000	0	0
										1858	2594	4	10	3000	0	0
										1859	3544	4	10	4090	0	0
										1860	4011	2	4	4500	0	0
										1861	5369	4	10	6000	0	0
										1862	6758	12	4	7500	0	0
										1863	8596	2	4	9500	0	0
										1864	10365	7	4	11500	0	0
										1865	11406	12	4	12500	0	0
										1866	12435	7	4	13500	0	0
										1867	13464	7	10	14500	0	0*

As in former years, the Finance Committee have held their monthly meetings and supervised the expenditure and receipts

* Of which 2000*l.* is India 5 per Cents., and 1000*l.* India 5 per Cent. Debentures.

of the Society. The auditors appointed by the Council (whose names are appended to balance-sheet, Appendix A) have also made their annual examination of the accounts, and testified their approval. The Council feel that the thanks of the Society generally are due to these able and experienced gentlemen, who devoted three days of their valuable time to the arduous labour of testing the accounts in detail.

Publications.—The 37th volume of the ‘Journal’ was published at the end of April, and is now being delivered to Fellows who apply for their copies at the offices of the Society. The 11th volume of the ‘Proceedings’ has also been published during the year, and two parts of volume 12 have been printed.

The Index to the third ten volumes of the ‘Journal,’ compiled by Colonel H. Yule, has been printed and distributed since the last Report.

Library.—The additions to the Library during the year amount to 1025 volumes of books and pamphlets; of which 190 were purchased, and the rest presented or obtained in exchange for our own publications.

Among the more important accessions may be mentioned the costly illustrated works on Abyssinia, by Messrs. Ferret and Galinier, and M. Lefebvre, complete, with Atlases and plates of Natural History; together with numerous other works, ancient and modern, relative to Abyssinia, the acquisition of which has rendered the Library exceedingly rich in this department. The sumptuous volume ‘*Plantæ Tinneanæ*,’ executed as a memorial of the adventurous voyage of the Dutch ladies on the White Nile and Ghazal River, is also amongst the accessions, presented by the originator of the work, our Associate Mr. J. A. Tinné.

Under the supervision of the Library Committee, which has held frequent meetings throughout the year, the Librarian has completed the arrangement of the books on the shelves, and made progress in the compilation of a new Catalogue, wherein all works and important memoirs in Transactions and Periodicals will be classified according to countries and places. When printed, and in the hands of Fellows and Students, this will be found a most useful index to geographical literature.

It is satisfactory to your Council to report that the Library

has been more used for the purpose of research than in former years. During the preliminary arrangements for the Abyssinian campaign, the numerous books and drawings relating to Abyssinia possessed by the Society were lent for the use of the Topographical Department of the War Office, and the Director-General of that department has since expressed, in an official letter to the Librarian, his thanks for the assistance thus afforded. A similar letter was received also from the Director of the Army Medical Department, to which works were lent and aid rendered in procuring information regarding the climate and diseases of North-Eastern Africa.

Map Collection.—The accessions to the Map Department during the year consist of 2380 sheets of Maps and Charts, 5 Atlases, 12 Diagrams, and 50 Views. All have been mounted, catalogued, and incorporated into the classified collection.

The following are the most important accessions :—

1350 Sheets of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and Ireland. Presented by the Topographical Office through Sir Henry James, Director.

109 Sheets of Admiralty Charts. Presented by the Admiralty through Captain G. H. Richards, R.N., Hydrographer.

309 Sheets of French Charts. Presented by the *Dépôt de la Marine*.

18 Sheets of Cadastral Map of the Province of Madrid. Presented by Don Juan de Villa Nova.

Geological Map of Switzerland. Presented by M. J. M. Ziegler.

Map of Alaska. Presented by the United States Naval Department.

Plans and Surveys of Nicaragua. Presented by J. Collinson, Esq., C.E.

6 Sheets of Map of Buenos Ayres. Presented by Don Saturnino Salas.

2 Sheets of Boundary Survey Map of the United States. Presented by A. Campbell, Esq.

Maps of British Columbia. Presented by A. Waddington, Esq.

Catalogue of Maps.—Two copies of the Manuscript Catalogue of Maps, to the end of 1867, have now been completed, and the

services of the extra assistant in the Map Department, engaged for this labour, dispensed with. The maps are classified according to countries and places, and great facility of reference is thereby attained, to the benefit of Fellows and the public who consult the collection. The question of printing the catalogue for distribution is under the consideration of the Council.

Grants to Travellers.—In the estimate for last year the sum of 200*l.* was given as the probable disbursement of the Society, on account of the Livingstone Search-Expedition under Mr. Young. The amount paid by the Society under this head is only 160*l.*—namely, 100*l.* as gratuity to Mr. Young; 50*l.*, the same, to Mr. Reid, the mechanic who managed the steel boat; and 10*l.*, for fishing and collecting apparatus, to Mr. Faulkner. All the other costs of the expedition were defrayed by Her Majesty's Government.

The sums paid to Mr. Young and Mr. Reid will appear in the accounts of the next financial year, and of the amount 193*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* for expeditions, entered in the present balance-sheet, 78*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, salary to Mr. Reid, has since been refunded by the Admiralty, as will appear in the next balance-sheet. The balance, 115*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, is composed of the following grants:—50*l.* to M. Gérard Rohlfs, in aid of his journey from Tripoli to Lagos; 7*l.* 7*s.* for instruments to Mr. E. Whympere, Greenland Expedition; 10*l.* to Mr. Faulkner, as above stated; 13*l.* for instruments to Mr. H. Whitely, South Peru; and 34*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* for instruments to the Rev. F. W. Holland, in aid of his Sinai exploration.

Geographical Prizes.—During the present session the Council have had under their earnest consideration a proposal of Mr. Francis Galton, Vice-President, to encourage the study of geography in Great Britain by the offer, on the part of the Society, of prizes for competition in the principal public schools. Already an annual prize of 5*l.*, termed "The Royal Geographical Society's Prize," is granted by the Council, as they learn, with beneficial results, to the Society of Arts, and awarded at their annual examination. The principle and details of the extended proposal have been examined by a special Committee, and on

their report the following course has been determined on by the Council :—

1. To offer two medals of gold and two of bronze, of appropriate size and design ; one of each to successful candidates in an annual examination, on subjects of Political Geography and Physical Geography respectively. The examination to take place in the beginning of 1869, and to be repeated in each succeeding year until further notice.
2. To invite to competition about twenty-three of the principal English public schools, and a proportionate number in other parts of the United Kingdom. The claims of other schools to be considered hereafter. The number of candidates in each school to be confined within such limits as the Council may hereafter determine.
3. The examination to be conducted by two Examiners engaged by the Society, and to be carried out by sealed papers sent simultaneously to the schools.

The Council will be prepared to issue full particulars of the proposed competition before the close of the session ; meantime they cite, to shew the connection between the present action of the Council and the movement now taking place in public school education, the following passages from the recent Reports upon School Education :—

“From the observations which we have made on the study of history and geography, it will appear that greater attention should in our opinion be paid to them than they now receive at schools. A taste for history may be gained at school ; the habit of reading intelligently should certainly be acquired there, and few books can be intelligently read without some study of history, and no history without geography.”—*Report of the Royal Commission on Public School Examination, 1864*, vol. i. p. 33.

[Speaking of Natural Science], “We cannot consider any scheme of education complete which omits a subject of such high importance. . . . The best starting-point would probably be found in the outlines of physical geography. This subject is already taught with much success in many elementary schools. . . . It has many points of connection with the other usual subjects of instruction.”—*Report of Schools Inquiry Commission, 1868*, p. 34.

APPENDIX B.

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1868.

<i>Receipts.</i>	<i>£. s. d.</i>		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
	<i>£.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£.</i>	<i>s. d.</i>
Cash Balance, 1st Jan., 1867	..	..	Rent, Taxes, and House Expenses ..	.. .. 550 0 0
Annual Subscriptions ..	..	..	Salaries (whole Staff) and Wages ..	.. .. 1320 0 0
Life Compositions ..	..	..	Library and Map-Rooms ..	.. .. 320 0 0
Entrance Fees ..	..	..	Gold Medals and other Awards ..	.. .. 100 0 0
Arrears of Subscriptions ..	..	..	Postages, &c. ..	.. .. 130 0 0
Royal Premium for 1868 ..	..	..	Office Expenses ..	.. .. 275 0 0
Parliamentary Grant ..	..	..	Journal, with Maps, and Proceedings ..	.. .. 1000 0 0
Sale of Publications, Advertisements, &c. ..	..	..	Library Catalogue (classified) ..	.. .. 250 0 0
Dividends and Small Receipts ..	..	..	Livingstone Search Party:—	
Refund by Admiralty of Salary and Expenses of	..	..	Grant to Mr. E. D. Young ..	.. .. £100
Mr. John Reid, attached to Livingstone Search Party}	122	15 4	„ Mr. Reid ..	.. .. 50
Amount of compensation due from Waterloo and White-	150	0 0		
hall Railway for the Society's Stables ..	..	..	Amount available for investment or advancement of	4095 0 0
			Geographical Science ..	.. .. 1200 0 0
			Cash Balance ..	.. .. 502 18 6
				£5797 18 6